GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3006
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2008
WITHDRAWAL OF AIR SERVICES
Mahtab Shri Bhartruhari

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India has withdrawn its services from some domestic sectors during the last four years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Bhubaneswar Airport is the lone airport which has very poor air connectivity; and

(d) the steps taken to provide better air connectivity to Bhubaneswar and to metropolitan cities including Chennai and Bangalore?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL)

(a) and (b):- Yes, Sir. Being a Commercial Organization, Air India is continuously monitoring performance of the services on its network. In this process, if any route does not yield the expected results inspite of best of the marketing efforts, Air India withdraws services from such recurrent loss making routes.

(c): Air India, JetLite, Kingfisher Airlines and Indigo operate 14, 21, 35 and 7 flights per week respectively linking Bhubneshwer to Delhi, Mumbai Kolkata, Bangalore and Hyderabad.

(d): Government has laid down Route Dispersal Guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country including North-East region. It is, however, up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability. As such the airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to compliance of Route Dispersal Guidelines issued by Government.